

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A longitudinally extending foot keel for a prosthetic foot, the foot keel comprising:
 - a hindfoot portion having a posterior and plantar surface weight bearing area, a forefoot portion having an anterior plantar surface weight bearing area and a non-weight bearing arch shaped midportion an upwardly arched midfoot portion monolithically formed with the forefoot portion and extending between the forefoot and hindfoot portions weight bearing areas,
 - wherein the a posterior end of the upwardly arched midfoot portion is monolithically formed with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface from the upwardly arched midfoot portion and extending anteriorly with a downward facing convexly curved surface to form midportion is formed with a coiled spring which is terminates in a free end, the coiled spring being compressed to absorb and expanded to return vertical load during use of the foot keel in a prosthetic foot.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein the posterior plantar surface weight bearing area hindfoot portion of the foot

keel is connected to the upwardly arched midfoot portion ~~arch-shaped midportion~~ by way of the coiled spring.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, further comprising an attachment fitting mounted on a dorsal surface of the posterior end of the ~~arch-shaped midportion~~ upwardly arched midfoot portion for connecting the foot keel to a supporting structure attached to a leg stump of a person.

6. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein each of the ~~posterior and anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas~~ hindfoot and forefoot portions of the foot keel are upward concavely curved.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, further comprising a fastening arrangement on a dorsal, posterior surface of the ~~midportion~~ upwardly arched midfoot portion for connecting the lower end of a calf shank to the foot keel.

9. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 8, wherein the longitudinal position of the fastening arrangement on the ~~arch-shaped midportion~~ midfoot portion is adjustable.

10. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein a dorsal aspect of said ~~midportion~~ midfoot portion and ~~anterior weight bearing area is~~ the forefoot portion is formed with an upwardly facing concavity, said concavity having a longitudinal axis which is oriented parallel to the frontal plane of the foot keel.

11. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein the anterior end of said ~~anterior weight bearing area~~ forefoot portion is shaped in an upwardly curved arc to simulate the human toes being dorsiflexed in the heel rise toe off position of the late stance phase of gait.

12. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein the posterior end of the ~~posterior weight bearing area~~ hindfoot portion is shaped in an upwardly curved arc that reacts to ground reaction forces during heel strike by compressing for shock absorption.

13. (currently amended) The foot keel according to claim 1, wherein the anterior end of the ~~posterior weight bearing area~~ hindfoot portion includes an expansion joint hole extending through said hindfoot portion of the foot keel between dorsal and plantar surfaces thereof with an expansion joint extending posteriorly from said expansion joint hole to the posterior edge of the foot keel to form plural expansion struts which create improved biplanar motion capability of the posterior weight bearing area in a prosthetic foot in gait.

14. (currently amended) A prosthetic foot comprising:

a longitudinally extending foot keel including a hindfoot portion having a posterior plantar surface weight bearing area, a forefoot portion having an and-anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas-area and an upwardly arched midfoot portion monolithically formed with the forefoot portion and a non-weight bearing arch-shaped midportion extending between the weight bearing areasforefoot and hindfoot portions,

wherein ~~the~~ a posterior end of the upwardly arched midfoot portion is monolithically formed with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface from the upwardly arched midfoot portion and extending anteriorly with a downward facing convexly curved surface to form midportion is formed with a coiled spring which is-terminates in a free end, the coiled spring being compressed to absorb and expanded to return vertical load during use of the terminates in a free end, the coiled spring being prosthetic foot.

15. (original) The prosthetic foot according to claim 14, further comprising a resilient, upstanding calf shank having a downward, anteriorly facing convexly curved lower end coupled to the foot keel to form an ankle joint area of the prosthetic foot, the calf shank extending upward to form a lower, prosthetic part of a leg above the ankle joint area for connection with a supporting structure on a person's leg stump.

16. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A prosthetic foot according to claim 15

comprising:

a longitudinally extending foot keel including posterior and anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas and a non-weight bearing arch shaped midportion extending between the weight bearing areas,

wherein the midportion is formed with a coiled spring which is compressed to absorb and expanded to return vertical load during use of the prosthetic foot,

the prosthetic foot further comprising a resilient, upstanding calf shank having a downward, anteriorly facing convexly curved lower end coupled to the foot keel to form an ankle joint area of the prosthetic foot, the calf shank extending upward to form a lower, prosthetic part of a leg above the ankle joint area for connection with a supporting structure on a person's leg stump,

_____ wherein the calf shank above the ankle joint area is also anteriorly facing convexly curved.

17. (original) The prosthetic foot according to claim 15, further comprising a fastening arrangement coupling the calf shank to the foot keel, the fastening arrangement being adjustable to permit adjustment of the alignment of the calf shank and foot keel with respect to one another in the longitudinal direction of the foot keel.

18. (currently amended) ~~The A prosthetic foot according to claim 45, comprising:~~

a longitudinally extending foot keel including posterior and anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas and a non-weight bearing arch shaped

midportion extending between the weight bearing areas,

wherein the midportion is formed with a coiled spring which is compressed to absorb and expanded to return vertical load during use of the prosthetic foot,

the prosthetic foot further comprising a resilient, upstanding calf shank having a downward, anteriorly facing convexly curved lower end coupled to the foot keel to form an ankle joint area of the prosthetic foot, the calf shank extending upward to form a lower, prosthetic part of a leg above the ankle joint area for connection with a supporting structure on a person's leg stump, and

a fastening arrangement coupling the calf shank to the foot keel, the fastening arrangement including means for adjusting the inclination at which the calf shank is coupled to the foot keel is the longitudinal direction of the foot keel.

19. (original) The prosthetic foot according to claim 15, wherein the calf shank forming the lower, prosthetic part of a leg extends upward in a substantially curvilinear manner so as to be expandable and compressible in response to ground reaction forces therein during gait for storing and releasing energy to improve dynamic response of the prosthetic foot in gait.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The prosthetic foot according to claim 14, wherein the posterior plantar surface weight bearing area of the hindfoot

portion of the foot keel is connected to the arch-shaped midportion-upwardly arched midfoot portion by way of the coiled spring.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The prosthetic foot according to claim 14, further comprising a coupling element mounted on a dorsal surface of the posterior end of the arch-shaped midportion-upwardly arched midfoot portion for connecting the foot to a supporting structure attached to a leg stump of a person.

24. (currently amended) The prosthetic foot according to claim 14, wherein each of the posterior and anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas-hindfoot and forefoot portion of the foot keel are upward concavely curved.

25. (currently amended) A method of absorbing and returning vertical load in a prosthetic foot during varied activities, wherein the prosthetic foot has a foot keel with a hindfoot portion having a posterior and plantar surface weight bearing area, a forefoot portion having an anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas-area and an upwardly arched midfoot portion a non-weight bearing arch-shaped midportion extending between the forefoot and hindfoot portions, wherein a posterior end of the upwardly arched midfoot portion is monolithically formed with a single coil extending downwardly with a posterior facing convexly curved surface from the upwardly arched midfoot

portion and extending anteriorly with a downward facing convexly curved surface to form weight bearing areas, the midportion at its posterior end being formed into a coiled spring which terminates in a free end, the method including:

elastically loading the upwardly arched midfoot portion ~~arch shaped midportion~~ by expansion and the coiled spring which terminates in a free end, of the ~~midportion~~ midfoot portion by compression in response to vertically directed forces on the prosthetic foot, and

returning energy stored by the ~~arch shaped midportion~~ upwardly arched midfoot portion and the compressed coiled spring of the ~~midportion~~ midfoot portion upon lowering the vertically directed forces on the prosthetic foot.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein each of said ~~posterior and anterior plantar surface weight bearing areas~~ forefoot and hindfoot portions of the foot keel are upward concavely curved, and wherein the method further comprises absorbing and returning vertical load upon heel-toe ground contact of the prosthetic foot in gait by the respective compression and expansion of the curvatures of the ~~weight bearing areas~~ forefoot and hindfoot portions of the foot keel.